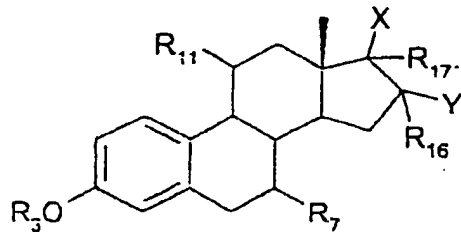


Attorney Docket No. O/98414 US

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A pharmaceutical composition having ER $\alpha$  agonist activity and having ER $\beta$  antagonist activity, comprising:

a steroid compound satisfying the following structural formula:



formula I

wherein:

one of X and Y is OH, the other being H;

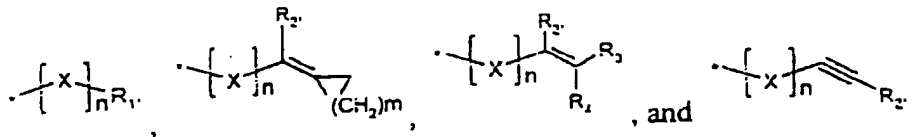
R<sub>3</sub> is H or COR'<sub>3</sub>, with R'<sub>3</sub> being alkyl or aryl;

R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>16</sub>, and R<sub>17</sub> each independently are H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or aryl; R<sub>11</sub> is a hydrocarbon group, which may be linear or branched, comprising one single linear chain having a length of from 5 to 9 carbon atoms as the longest chain on carbon atom no. 11 of the steroid skeleton, wherein said chain may be saturated or unsaturated, and

a pharmaceutical acceptable auxiliary.

Attorney Docket No. O/98414 US

2. (Twice Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein  $R_{11}$  is selected from the following group of side-chain structures:



wherein X is  $\text{CH}_2$ , CH-alkyl or  $\text{C}(\text{alkyl})_2$ ,  $R_1$  is H, alkyl,  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_7$  cycloalkyl or together with X forms a  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_7$  ring system,  $R_2$  is H, alkyl or  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_7$  cycloalkyl,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  each independently are H, alkyl or  $\text{C}_3$ - $\text{C}_7$  cycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with halogen or CN, n is an integer of from 0-9, m is an integer of from 1-5.

3. (Twice Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein the longest chain in  $R_{11}$  comprises 5-7 carbon atoms.

4. (Twice Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein the longest chain in  $R_{11}$  comprises 5 carbon atoms.

7. (Amended) A method for treating estrogen deficiency disorders, comprising:

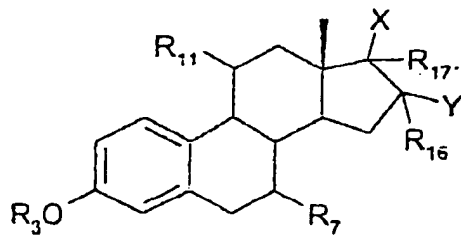
Attorney Docket No. O/98414 US

administering to a patient afflicted with an estrogen deficiency disorder an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 1.

Please add the following claim:

--8. A method of inducing ER $\alpha$  agonist activity and ER $\beta$  antagonist activity in a patient in need thereof, comprising:

administering an effective amount of a steroid compound satisfying the following structural formula:



formula I

wherein:

one of X and Y is OH, the other being H;

R<sub>3</sub> is H or COR'<sub>3</sub>, with R'<sub>3</sub> being alkyl or aryl;

R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>16</sub>, and R<sub>17</sub> each independently are H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or aryl; R<sub>11</sub> is a hydrocarbon group, which may be linear or branched, comprising one single linear chain having a length of from 5 to 9 carbon atoms as the longest chain on carbon atom no. 11 of the steroid skeleton, wherein said chain may be saturated or unsaturated.--